



Arizona Department of Education  
Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

# Program Overview

## Arizona's Eighth Annual Transition Conference *"Transforming Visions to Realities"*



as I climb life's stairs  
...step by step,  
I am helped by so many people  
...teachers, therapists and more

At the top I will look back  
...with love and gratitude,  
And remember each who helped me  
...step by step

Photo and Verse by  
student Charlotte E. Hance

Addressing the Transition Needs of Youth and  
Young Adults with Disabilities

**September 22-23, 2008**

Radisson Fort McDowell Resort  
10438 N. Fort McDowell Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85264  
(800) 715-0328 or (480) 836-5300

Sponsored by:

- Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services
- Arizona Department of Health Services,  
Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Arizona Department of Economic Security,  
Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Arizona Department of Economic Security,  
Rehabilitation Services Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation
- Secure Care Education Committee

# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## Arizona's Eighth Annual Transition Conference “TRANSFORMING VISIONS TO REALITIES”

Arizona's Eighth Annual Transition Conference “TRANSFORMING VISIONS TO REALITIES” will include an exciting venue of national speakers, state level experts, and active youth participation. Also featured this year will be youth and young adult entertainment and a fabulous display of artwork. The conference will include sessions on *Youth and Young Adult Empowerment, Family Voice, Community Partnerships, Legal Implications, Accessing Community Resources, Secure Care, and Assistive Technology*. This is not the year to miss!

### Who Should Attend?

- State and Local Special Education Directors, Transition Specialists, & Teachers/Professors
- School Psychologists
- Secondary Special Education Personnel
- State Agency Personnel
- Individuals with Disabilities/Family Members
- Parent/Student Advocates
- Secure Care Personnel
- Disabilities Resource Services Personnel

## REGISTRATION

Registration for Arizona's Eighth Annual Conference is now open and will close Friday, September 12, 2008. Conference registration will be processed exclusively online. To Register please go to the lower right hand corner of [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov). Click the “Calendar of Events”; then click the drop-down arrow on the calendar and select ‘September’ and click on the date of September **22**. You may also register online by going to the ESS Transition Services website at <http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/transitionservices/> and click “Events”; locate “ARIZONA'S EIGHTH ANNUAL TRANSITION CONFERENCE” and complete the registration process. If you experience any difficulty please contact Jeannette Zemeida at (602) 542-3855.

### Registration Cost

\$180.00 both days or \$90.00 for one day - Professional Educators, Service Agency Providers, and Other Professionals  
\$80.00 both days or \$40.00 for one day - Youth and Family Members

Registration will remain open through September 12<sup>th</sup> and is limited to the first 750 registrants only. In the event registration reaches capacity and closes before the deadline, you may contact Jeannette Zemeida at 602-542-3855 to be placed on a waiting list. Complete all registration information in detail.

### Registration Payment

Payment must be made by purchase order, check, or cashiers check only. Credit and debit cards cannot be processed, nor will cash be accepted.

Make check payable to “Arizona Department of Education”.

Mail payment to: Arizona Department of Education  
Exceptional Student Services Attn: Jeannette Zemeida  
1535 West Jefferson, Bin 24  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

### Attendance Confirmation

Attendance is strictly based on a registration confirmation and available capacity. Please do not consider the registration process complete without a confirmation number from the online process. Reservations will not be retained without advance payment per check, requisition number or copy of purchase order, which must be received by September 12, 2008 to validate your registration. Please retain and bring your confirmation number with you to the conference.

**Refunds and Cancellations:** All requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than September 12, 2008. Cancellation requests will not be accepted after that date.

**Registrant Substitutions:** Please advise by September 12, 2008 of any attendee substitutions. Call Jeannette Zemeida at (602) 542-3855 or email her at [Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov) with name changes.

**Special /Dietary Needs:** Identification of any special dietary needs must be made through the online Registration form or by calling Jeannette Zemeida at (602) 542-3855 or email her at [Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov) by September 3, 2008.

**ADA Special Accommodation Needs:** If you require special accommodations, please call Jeannette Zemeida (602) 542-3855 or email her at [Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov](mailto:Jeannette.Zemeida@azed.gov) with your request by September 3, 2008.

**Room Registration – Make your reservations directly with Radisson Fort McDowell Resort by calling 1-800-715-0328 or 480-836-5300.** Rooms will be held under Arizona Department of Education Transition Conference until September 12, 2008 at 5:00 pm at the rate of \$103.00 per night not including state and local taxes.

# Program Overview

## National Presenters

Dana Henning – September 22 and 23, 2008

Dr. Dana Henning has over 30 years experience in providing services for people with disabilities. Dr. Henning has directed Dana Henning Training Programs based in PA since 1985. This organization provides staff training and programmatic consultation to schools, universities, families, governmental agencies and private providers in the areas of the autism spectrum, intellectual disabilities, mental health, and aging throughout the US and in the Netherlands and Germany. Dr. Henning has also served as Director of Education on the Mental Health and Behavioral Team of Morristown, NJ, Assistant Clinical Professor in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, Assistant Professor at PA State University at West Chester, and as Director of Planning and Staff Development at the Developmental Disabilities Center of Temple University.



Geri Jewel – Keynote September 22, 2008

Geri Jewell is a well-recognized actress and disabilities advocate. She started her acting career as the personal choice of famed producer Norman Lear for her role as Cousin Geri on the ground-breaking NBC sitcom, "The Facts of Life." In this role she became the first person with a visible disability to regularly perform on a national television show and broke important new ground by addressing issues of disability awareness. Geri has also appeared in the Emmy winning HBO series, "Deadwood," was recently featured on "Strong Medicine," and is a re-occurring character on "Young and the Restless." She just made her film debut in an independent feature that was recently shown at the Tribeca and Fort Lauderdale Film Festivals. Geri is not only an exceptional actress and comedienne, but is internationally recognized as a powerful and motivational speaker and trainer. She is famous for her uncanny ability to captivate the hearts of audiences by using humor to facilitate attitude changes. Geri brings to her presentations personal experience of having her behavior and actions misunderstood because of her cerebral palsy. By sharing her disability as her greatest blessing and revealing insights about the world, Geri turns the focus from disabilities to a true celebration of ability, resulting in an inspiring, empowering and healing experience. She was recently honored by the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, DC with their highest honor, The Victory award.



Mike Johnson – September 22, 2008

Michael Johnson is a teacher, trainer, consultant, and author who has spent over thirty years working in the field of special education, dealing with families and students who range in age from 12-21. His experiences have focused on building social/pre-vocational and vocational programs for a broad range of students who are at-risk or marginalized during their transition to adulthood. Most of Mr. Johnson's practical work has been done within the Springfield School District in his home state of Oregon. He has worked in a number of other states including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Washington, and Idaho, in a consulting/training capacity on issues related to transition and social skills proficiency. His work at the University of Oregon as a technical assistance coordinator for the Oregon Youth Transition Program has focused on training teachers, administrators, and adult agency staff throughout the state in the implementation of a nationally recognized transition model. This University of Oregon association has led to his co-authorship of the NEXT S.T.E.P. curriculum, a practical approach to empowering students in the transition process. He is the lead author of the W.A.G.E.S. (Working at Gaining Employment Skills) curriculum, a social skills curriculum for adolescents entering the employment field. Mr. Johnson has presented at local, state, and national conferences targeting best practice transition models and the teaching of job readiness social skills.



Raun K. Kaufman – September 23, 2008

Raun K. Kaufman was diagnosed as severely and incurably autistic at age 18 months. Although his parents, Barry Neil Kaufman and Samahria, were advised to institutionalize him, they chose to create an innovative home-based program in an effort to reach their son. Their work, which developed into a unique methodology now known as The Son-Rise Program, enabled Raun to recover completely from his autism. He was transformed from a mute, withdrawn child with a tested I.Q. of less than 30, into an outgoing, social boy with a near-genius I.Q. - who eventually earned a degree in Biomedical Ethics from Brown University. This journey is documented in the best-selling book, *Son-Rise: The Miracle Continues* by Barry Neil Kaufman, as well as in "The Miracle of Love," an award-winning NBC television movie. In addition to becoming an international lecturer and teacher, Raun continued his professional development as director of an educational center for school-aged children. Today Kaufman, an autism treatment specialist, is CEO of the Autism Treatment Center of America. He has written about his experiences in *Asperger's/Autism Digest*, the UK publication, *Autism File*, and in the essay, "Unchain Your Dreams," excerpted from the book, *Silver Linings* by Shaena Engle. He has completed seven international autism lecture tours and keynoted at countless conferences and events. He has discussed The Son-Rise Program, autism treatment, and his own perspectives as a person recovered from the disorder in hundreds of radio, television, Internet, and print interviews.



Dr. Ed O'Leary – September 22 and 23, 2008

Dr. Ed O'Leary is a Consultant and Program Specialist for Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center. He received his Doctorate from the University of Illinois in Vocational Technical Education/Special Needs (1991) and his Masters in Special Education from Drake University. He has spent over 30 years working in and with schools as a secondary special education teacher, special education consultant, transition specialist, work experience coordinator, program specialist and program director. He developed the Transition Outcomes Project, an approach to helping districts and states meet transition requirements in order to demonstrate improvement and results. The Transition Outcomes Project is now operating in over 25 states/regions and over 1,500 districts across the country.



Dr. Mary E. Morningstar – September 22 and 23, 2008

Dr. Mary E. Morningstar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas and Director of the Transition Coalition, a research and training center for the transition to adulthood and secondary special education for youth with disabilities. Dr. Morningstar has been involved in statewide in-service training and staff development regarding transition from school to adult life for over 20 years. She was the Training Coordinator for the "Kansas Systems Change in Transition Project" at the University of Kansas. She is actively involved with statewide training of professionals and family members regarding issues in transition including interagency collaboration, compliance with federal regulations regarding transition, school-business partnerships, and the role of families during transition planning. She teaches several classes related to secondary education and transition including vocational training and employment, interagency and community services, and a week-long transition summer institute.



Dr. Pattie Noonan – September 22 and 23, 2008

Dr. Pattie Noonan has been working in secondary special education/transition for over a decade, and is currently an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Kansas, Department of Special Education. Her work is divided between the Transition Coalition and the Center for Research on Learning. Dr. Noonan focuses her efforts on large-scale evaluation of school reform and improvement efforts, developing and researching community transition teams at the state and local levels, and providing professional development for secondary special educators. Her research interests center around strategies and barriers to collaboration (both intra and inter-agency), education systems-change, and school improvement.



Deanna Unruh – September 22 and 23, 2008

Dr. Deanne Unruh is a Senior Research Scientist at the University of Oregon in the College of Education in the Secondary Special Education and Transition (SSET) research unit with research expertise in high risk adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system. She has received research funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Her recent work is in collaboration with Oregon's juvenile justice agency and local community agencies to develop facility-to-community transition programming and target employability social skills for adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system. In 2003, Dr. Unruh was appointed to the State of Oregon Transition Advisory Council (TAC) and currently is a board member and past president of the Oregon Association of Vocational Special Needs Personnel. Prior to her coming to the University of Oregon, Dr. Unruh was a teacher and administrator in alternative education schools for high-risk youth in urban settings for more than 12 years. During this tenure she was a certified trainer for the National Diffusion Network and trained state, district, and school staff nationwide on effective instructional strategies for working with at-risk youth.



# Concurrent Sessions

**September 22 and 23, 2008**

An Introduction to Filing for SSI/SSA Disability Benefits for Children under Age 18 and Young Adults at 18 and Older

Assistive Technology and Transition: Creating a Real Action Plan

Bridges to the Future

The Changing Roles of Family Members and Youth in Transition

College Options for Individuals with Cognitive Impairments

Disability Attitudes 101: Student Perspectives and How to Deal with Attitudinal Barriers in the Classroom

Empowered Youth: A Look at Arizona Youth in Recovery and the Hope They Bring to the Behavioral Health System

Engaging High School Seniors to Prevent Drop Out

Facilitating the Educational Achievement of Young Adults by Using Rehabilitation Principles to Integrate Plans and Unify Resources of the Behavioral Health and Education Systems

High-Tech/Low-Tech Accommodations for Students with Disabilities at Mesa Community College

Innovative Transition Programming in Facilities: Secure Care Transition to Community

It's My IEP!

Making It Happen: Fostering Self-Advocacy and Determination through Self-Directed IEPs, Team Teaching, and Student Advisory

My Future My Plan: A Transition Planning Resource for Life after High School

A Realistic Approach to Student-Led IEPs

Seven 'R's for Re-Exploring Re-Entry

Student/Parent-Directed IEPs: Culturally and Academically Responsive Transition Education

Students with Disabilities: Access & Persistence in College

Successful Transition: True Tales Tell it All

Transition Best Practices for Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Transition is Not a Path Traveled by One, The Parent's Perspective

Using Technology to Promote Successful Transition

"Voc 256": An Integrated School-to-Work Transition Curriculum

Working While on SSI and/or SSA Disability Benefit Programs



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